

**Lower Hudson Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (PRISM)
Contract Number: 17-002**

2017 Blockbuster Training Summary Report

Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County led the Blockbuster training in 2017 for the Lower Hudson PRISM organization. CCEDC updated training materials based on the LHPRISM target species for 2017 and trained regional Master Gardener Volunteers to be experts for the counties in the region. In cooperation with LPRISM staff, CCEDC worked with each CCE and LHPRISM partner in the region to recruit community volunteers for the 2017 BlockBuster program, and to deliver education to the volunteers who will then executed the survey.

Updated training materials for 2017 included the Recruitment and Identification presentation and the field guide "Cheat Sheet". A flyer and web content were created and communicated on the CCE websites. New presentations were created to review data collection and survey protocol and to describe a new smart phone application Survey123 created by volunteers from NYNJTC.

A Train the Trainers workshop held May 23 at CCE Dutchess County was attended by educators from the 6 CCE's, 1 educator from NYBG, and 7 LHPRISM or NYNJTC members.

CCE educators in each county presented the recruitment presentation to various audiences including their Master Gardener volunteers and local garden clubs.

CCE Dutchess April 20 reached 34 from Pawling Garden Club at Trinity Pawling School;

CCE Putnam May 10 reached 26 Master Gardener volunteers

CCE Orange May 10 reached 43 Master Gardener volunteers

CCE Dutchess May 17 reached 56 Master Gardener volunteers

CCE Putnam June 7 and June 10 reached 27

CCE Rockland May 16 and June 7 reached 52

CCE Ulster May 4 and 25 reached 17

CCE educators in each county and NYBG held 4 hour workshops throughout June.

CCE Orange June 7 reached 17

CCE Dutchess June 3 and June 17 reached 17

CCE Orange June 7 reached 17

CCE Putnam June 8 and June 20 reached 7

CCE Rockland June 16 and June 27 reached 35

CCE Ulster June 22 and 23 reached 13

CCE Westchester combined their training with CCE Rocklands on June 27.

The New York Botanic Garden on June 13 trained 22

Results:

The number of volunteers trained this year was 111 vs. 114 in 2016. (The 2017 Grant goal was 60).

The number of blocks assigned this year was 96 vs. 104 in 2016. The number of blocks completed this year was 32, with an additional 17 partially completed vs. 2016 approx. 70 blocks were completed. (The 2017 Grant goal was 50). CCE leaders followed up with trainees from their counties to check on status and encourage their completion, but several volunteers experienced situations which made them unable to complete the surveys.

Respectfully submitted,

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